

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A sealable storage container, comprising:

a container having an upper edge, sides and a bottom;

a closure comprising:

a frame;

a cover panel which is at least partially removable;

and a [means] fusion ring for bonding the closure to the upper top edge of the container, wherein the fusion ring is molded and placed in contact with the cover panel and wherein the frame is molded around the cover panel.

2. (Original) The storage container of claim 1 wherein the frame includes a means for facilitating the placement of the closure on the container.

3. (Original) The storage container of claim 2 wherein the means for facilitating the placement of the closure on the container is a pair of downwardly extending legs which form a channel into which the upper edge is inserted.

4. (Original) The storage container of claim 1 wherein the frame includes a means for facilitating stacking a plurality of storage containers.

5. (Original) The storage container of claim 4 wherein the means for facilitating stacking a plurality of storage containers comprises an upwardly extending peripheral rim which accepts the bottom of one of the plurality of storage containers.

6. (Cancelled) The storage container of claim 1 wherein the cover panel is a flexible membrane which is releasably bonded to the closure frame.

7. (Original) The storage container of claim 1 wherein the cover panel is made from a thermoplastic polymeric material.

8. (Original) The storage container of claim 1 wherein the cover panel includes a grip means for removing at least a portion of the cover panel.

9. (Cancelled) The storage container of claim 8 wherein the grip means is a pull tab which extends from the cover panel.

10. (Original) The storage container of claim 8 wherein the grip means is a ring pull which is attached to the surface of the cover panel.

11. (Cancelled) The storage container of claim 1 wherein the means for bonding the closure to the container comprises a fusion ring.

12. (Currently Amended) The storage container of claim [11] 1 wherein the fusion ring is made from an electromagnetic, polymeric, fusible material.

13. (Currently Amended) The storage container of claim [11] 1 wherein the fusion ring bonds the closure to the container by means of the non-contact application of an electromagnetic field.

14. (Original) The storage container of claim 1 wherein the means for bonding the closure to the container is the application of an electromagnetic field.

15. (Original) The storage container of claim 1 wherein the cover portion includes means for removing a portion of the cover panel.

16. (Original) The storage container of claim 15 wherein the means for removing a portion of the cover panel is selected from the group consisting of opposing pre-scored cuts in the cover panel; offset pre-scored cuts in the cover panel; and aligned, pre-scored cuts in the cover panel.

17. A sealable storage container, comprising:

a container having an upper edge, sides and a bottom;

a closure comprising:

a frame including a pair of downwardly extending legs which form a channel into which the upper edge is inserted and an upwardly extending peripheral rim;

a cover panel which is at least partially removable; and

a fusion ring made from fusible material for bonding the closure to the upper top edge of the container by means of the non-contact application of an electromagnetic field.

18. (Original) The storage container of claim 17 wherein the cover portion includes means for removing a portion of the cover panel, wherein the means is selected from the group consisting of opposing pre-scored cuts in the cover panel; offset pre-scored cuts in the cover panel; and aligned, pre-scored cuts in the cover panel.

19. (Currently Amended) A sealable storage container, comprising:

a container having an upper edge, sides and a lower edge;

at least one closure, each at least one closure comprising:

a frame; a cover panel which is at least partially removable; and

and a [means] fusion ring for bonding the closure to the upper top edge of the container, wherein the fusion ring is molded and placed in contact with the cover panel and wherein the frame is molded around the cover panel.

20. (Cancelled) The storage container of claim 19 wherein the cover panel is a flexible membrane which is releasably bonded to the closure frame.

21. (Original) The storage container of claim 19 wherein the cover panel is made from a thermoplastic polymeric material.

22. (Original) The storage container of claim 19 wherein the cover panel includes a grip means for removing at least a portion of the cover panel.

23. (Original) The storage container of claim 19 wherein the means for bonding the closure to the container comprises a fusion ring.

24. (Original) The storage container of claim 23 wherein the fusion ring is made from an electromagnetic, polymeric, fusible material.

25. (Original) The storage container of claim 24 wherein the fusion ring bonds the closure to the container by means of the non-contact application of an electromagnetic field.

26. (Original) The storage container of claim 19 wherein the means for bonding the closure to the container is the application of an electromagnetic field.

27. (Original) The storage container of claim 19 wherein the cover portion includes means for removing a portion of the cover panel, the means selected from the group consisting of opposing pre-scored cuts in the cover panel; offset pre-scored cuts in the cover panel; and aligned, pre-scored cuts in the cover panel.

28. (Cancelled) A method for manufacturing a sealable container closure, comprising:

- providing a membrane with a peelable coating on one side;
- inserting the membrane into a first mold section;
- mating the first mold section containing the membrane with a second mold section to form a cavity area;
- injecting a thermoplastic polymeric material into the cavity area to form a frame;
- filling the cavity area with the thermoplastic polymeric material causing the peelable coating to bond to the frame;
- replacing the second mold section with a third mold section; and
- injecting a fusible polymeric material into the third mold section to form a fusible ring,

wherein the membrane, frame and fusible ring form the closure.

29. (Cancelled) The method according to claim 28 wherein the fusible polymeric material is an electromagnetic material.

30. (Cancelled) The method according to claim 28 wherein the fusible polymeric material is an oxygen scavenger.

31. (Cancelled) The method according to claim 28 wherein the thermoplastic polymeric material includes one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of fumed silica, glass microspheres, talc, nano-clay, mica, calcium carbonate, iron powder, nylon, and EVOH.

32. (Cancelled) The storage container of claim 28 wherein the membrane includes a grip means for removing at least a portion of the membrane.

33. (Cancelled) The storage container of claim 32 wherein the grip means is a pull tab which extends from the membrane.

34. (Cancelled) The storage container of claim 32 wherein the grip means is a ring pull which is attached to the surface of the membrane.

35. (Cancelled) A method for manufacturing a sealable container closure, comprising:

- providing a first mold section and a second mold section;
- mating the first mold section with the second mold section to form a first cavity area
- injecting a fusible polymeric material into the first cavity area to form a fusible ring having a shelf,
- removing the second mold section;
- placing a panel on the shelf of the fusible ring;
- mating a third mold section with the first mold section to form a second cavity area; and
- injecting a thermoplastic polymeric material into the second cavity area to form a frame,

the panel, frame and fusible ring forming the closure.

36. (Cancelled) The method according to claim 35 wherein the fusible polymeric material is an electromagnetic material.

37. (Cancelled) The method according to claim 35 wherein the fusible polymeric material is an oxygen scavenger.

38. (Cancelled) The method according to claim 35 wherein the thermoplastic polymeric material includes one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of fumed silica, glass microspheres, talc, nano-clay, mica, calcium carbonate, iron powder, nylon, and EVOH.

39. (Cancelled) The storage container of claim 35 wherein the membrane includes a grip means for removing at least a portion of the membrane.

40. (Cancelled) The storage container of claim 39 wherein the grip means is a pull tab which extends from the membrane.

41. (Cancelled) The storage container of claim 39 wherein the grip means is a ring pull which is attached to the surface of the membrane.